

Ebenezer L. Atwood House  
Bound Brook Island Road  
Wellfleet  
Barnstable County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-708

HABS  
MASS,  
1-WEL,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EBENEZER L. ATWOOD HOUSE

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Location: South side of Bound Brook Island Road.  
Wellfleet.  
Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

Present Owner: Mrs. Joan E. Clark.  
Bound Brook Island, Wellfleet, Massachusetts.

Present Occupants: Mrs. Joan E. Clark and family.

Present Use: Permanent residence, with plans to use the house  
for summer rental in the future.

Significance: The original structure was a Cape Cod "house and a  
half", or three-quarters house, located within the  
area of the proposed Cape Cod National Seashore.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Original and Subsequent Owners Verbal tradition, according to the present owner, relates that Benjamin J. Atwood was the builder and original owner of the house; that the Wellfleet, Mass. Town Records show a glass tax on the house in 1760, levied on nine windows; that the house evidently remained in the Atwood family until one Arthur Atwood died in 1932. The property was then sold to Grace Lamb Wood who sold it to Theo. W. Clark and Joan E. Clark in 1946. In 1957 Theo. W. Clark deeded his share to the present sole owner, Joan E. Clark.

Date of Erection Between mid and late 18th Century.

Architect Unknown.

Builder Benjamin J. Atwood, reportedly.

Original Plans None known to exist.

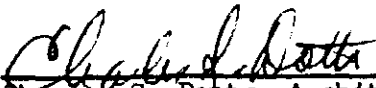
Alterations and Additions A frame addition, now used for a dining room, was added to the original kitchen, on the west, in the 18th C., according to local tradition. To the west of this was added a modern kitchen, probably in the 1940's. In 1952 the south roof of the original house was raised and a full length dormer installed. The original buttery and burning room were converted to a bath and storage room, since 1947, by the present owner. The second floor has been altered considerably.

Historical Events Connected with the Structure None that have been uncovered, however the house is located near Duck Harbor and near the original Town Center of Wellfleet. The builder, Benjamin J. Atwood, was one of the various Atwoods who figured prominently in the early history of Cape Cod.

Sources of Information Present owner.

Likely Sourcee not yet Investigated A search could be made of the Wellfleet Town Records and the Barnstable County Records in Barnstable, Mass. for further information about the structure. These County records, however are incomplete prior to 1827 because of a County Court House fire then which destroyed the Register of Deeds books with other records.

Prepared by

  
Charles S. Dotts, Architect  
HABS Cape Cod Summer Project  
June 20, 1960

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural interest and merit This structure is a one and one-half story Cape Cod "house and a half" located within the area of the proposed Cape Cod National Seashore. The original floor plan, which can be observed in the house, is typical of similar housees built on Cape Cod during the last part of the 18th Century and the early part of the 19th Century. Like most of similar houses that exist today, alterations and additions have been made to the original structure.

Condition of fabric This structure is in good condition. The present owner has been interested in partial restoration; and in the kitchen in removing old paint from the wood panelling to expose the grain.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXTERIOR

Overall dimensions Original structure, 26' x 28'; additions, 14' x 27'.

Foundations Brick, wood sills, circular basement under east side of house with exterior entrance.

Wall construction This appears to be vertical plank construction, with the planks fastened to the wood sill and the top girt. The owner, however, while remodeling, discovered a layer of horizontal boards backing up the vertical boards on the north exterior wall. The exterior is covered with shingles.

Porches, stoops, etc. Small brick stoops are located on the four exterior doors.

Chimneys One brick chimney, rebuilt by present owner in 1947.

Openings - doorways and doors 6 panel exterior wood doors with 5 light transom over door leading from present living room (north entrance).

windows and shutters 9/6 panes (6" x 8") in double-hung sash.  
No shutters.

Roof Gabled, pitched and shingled roof.

Cornice, eaves Wood box cornice, narrow eaves.

Dormers Full length dormer was added to the south part of the original house in 1947 by the present owner.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR

Floor plans The first floor plan is the typical Cape Cod "house and a half" with the main door on the south leading into a small entry which is flanked by a two window east room, and a one window west room. The stairs to the second floor run to the north off of the entry. Behind the two front rooms and entry is the original kitchen which is now used as a living room. To the east of this are the buttry and small bed room or burning room. The owner has moved the original partition between these last two rooms in order to install a bath room. A frame addition was added to the west side of the kitchen and to the west of this, a modern kitchen was added probably in the 1940's.

The second floor has been altered considerably by various owners. At present there are three bed rooms and a bath there. The south part of the roof was raised in 1947 and a full length dormer was added at that time.

Stairways One, leading from the entry to the second floor. This is wood, 2'-6" wide, with 9 treads in a run of 6'-0".

Flooring Random width (10" to 16") pine boards, painted in some of the rooms, and unfinished in others.

Wall and ceiling finish Varies from room to room. East room is panelled on the north and west fireplace wall, and plastered with wood wainscoting on the east and south walls. The west room has the north and east walls panelled with the south and west walls plastered and wainscoted. The original kitchen is plastered with wainscoting applied to the east and west walls. The other rooms on the first floor are plastered. Ceilings are plastered on the first floor.

Doorways and doors The interior doors are 5 panelled, without the cross that has been called the "Christian" door. They are old, and are apparently original.

Trim Some of the first floor rooms have apparently the original molded trim. Early type panelling and mantels are noted in the east room and original kitchen.

Hardware Some apparently original butterfly and HL hinges are seen on the first floor.

Lighting Electric.

Heating Floor furnace, two fireplaces, one in east room and one in original kitchen.

SITE

Orientation and general setting House faces south in typical Cape Cod manner in a small clearing.

Enclosures There is a two foot high concrete block wall about 25 feet north of the house which divides the lawn from the gravel drive and parking place.

Outbuildings A wooden barn is located about 50 feet northeast of the house; a screened in summer kitchen is located about 25 feet northwest of the house.

Walks, driveways There is a "U" shaped drive at the north of the house.

Landscaping Good landscaping of shrubbery and trees with a small clearing south, and a garden spot west of the house.

Prepared by

Charles S. Dotts

Charles S. Dotts, Architect  
HABS Cape Cod Summer Project I  
June 20, 1960

References : Measured Drawings by Cape Cod Project I, Eastham Field Office, Summer 1960.